

September 9, 2005

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U.S. Congresswoman Allyson Y. Schwartz, 13th District of Pennsylvania

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[For more information on relief efforts for the victims of Hurricane Katrina please click here.](#)

What do you think the most important thing Congress should do to lessen rising energy costs?

- ☐ **Protect American consumers from gasoline price gouging.**
- ☐ **Increase auto fuel efficiency standards.**
- ☐ **Provide tax credits for hybrid vehicles.**
- ☐ **Encourage OPEC to increase oil production.**
- ☐ **End America's reliance on foreign oil.**
- ☐ **Invest in research promoting cleaner energy**

Dear friend,

Like many of you, I am concerned over the spike in gasoline prices. I am especially outraged that at this moment of national disaster, that some within the oil industry are using the scarcity of resources to exploit market conditions and price gouge for their own benefit.

On September 7, I called upon President Bush to take immediate action to halt the rapid increase of oil and gas prices across the nation. Below I have included a copy of the letter that I sent to the President.

If you believe you have been a victim of gasoline price gouging, please notify the Pennsylvania Attorney General's office at 1-800-441-2555. For more information or to file a gas gouging complaint online, please visit the [Pennsylvania Attorney General's Web site](#).

For additional information on my work in Washington, D.C. please visit www.house.gov/Schwartz.

Sincerely,

Allyson Y. Schwartz
Member of Congress

technologies.

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Five Tips to Save at the Gasoline Pump

Considering the recent increases in the price of gasoline, I wanted to share with you some tips on how to improve the fuel efficiency of your vehicle. Below are five suggestions that will help you save money at the pump and, in the long run, reduce our nation's dependence on foreign oil.

Use the "Flow-Through Ventilation System" To Cool Your Car

Using the flow through ventilation system to cool off your car rather than turning on the air conditioner dramatically improves your vehicle's efficiency. On a hot day, by not running your car's air conditioner you can improve mileage efficiency by as much as 21 percent.

A copy of the letter Rep. Schwartz sent to the President follows.

September 7, 2005

The Honorable George W. Bush

President of the United States of America

1600 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.

Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

As you are acutely aware, the devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina shut down oil and gas production from the Outer Continental Shelf in the Gulf of Mexico, the source for 25 percent of U.S. crude oil production. This has contributed to the rapid increase of oil and gas prices across the nation – placing an unbearable burden upon hard-working Americans. For example, in the 13th District of Pennsylvania, which I represent, over the last five days the average price for a gallon of regular unleaded gas increased 55-cents per gallon from \$2.74 to \$3.29. If oil prices are not curtailed in the near future, it will have a devastating effect on the American economy.

While your decision to release crude oil from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve may help to reduce the price of oil, more must be done. Specifically, efforts must be made to: 1) prevent anti-competitive manipulation of energy markets; and 2) encourage the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) to increase its production of oil.

I share my constituents' concerns that during

Additionally, using the ventilation feature is more efficient than rolling down the windows, which create air drag and, in turns, lowers gas mileage.

Keep Tires Inflated to the Appropriate Levels

According to the U.S. Department of Energy, nearly four million gallons of gasoline could be saved nationwide each day for every one pound per square inch (psi) of under-inflation, compared to the mileage if all vehicle tires were kept inflated to the manufacturer's recommended pressure. So, when you stop to fill-up your gas tank – make sure your tires are inflated to the proper levels.

Perform Regular Maintenance on Your Car

By performing regular maintenance on your car you can improve its longevity and its efficiency. For example, replacing clogged air filters can improve your car's efficiency by as much as 10 percent. It also helps to use the recommended grade of motor oil for your car engine.

Monitor the Fuel Economy of Your Vehicle

When you fill up your car, check your mileage to ensure that you are getting the fuel efficiency that you expect from your vehicle. By keeping an eye on this, you will be able to notice whether your car's fuel efficiency is decreasing or if there is a mechanical problem that can be fixed.

this time of crisis some within the oil industry are using the scarcity of resources to exploit market conditions and price gouge for their own benefit. To prevent this from happening, all federal agencies responsible for the enforcement of laws against monopolies and unfair competition should be monitoring the oil industry to ensure that this is not happening and, if it is, be required to take all actions necessary to combat disingenuous and illegal behavior.

Additionally, OPEC, which holds about two-thirds of the world's oil reserves and sets quotas on their individual member's oil production to increase world oil prices to maximize their profits, should be called upon to increase production during this time of urgent need. As you know, to ensure stability on the global market, OPEC has already indicated that it will discuss increasing crude production by up to one million barrels per day at its next meeting, which is scheduled for September 19-20. This response is promising, and the Administration must work diligently to make sure that this and other necessary steps are taken in cooperation with the international community to ensure an adequate supply of oil.

We face a long and difficult road to rebuild from this disaster. As a result, we must take immediate action to ensure that short-term spikes to oil and gas prices do not compound our recovery. Beyond these immediate actions to relieve the present crisis, we must also work to develop alternative sources of energy and make more efficient the use of traditional energy resources, such as fossil fuels, so that the nation can reduce its reliance on foreign oil. Long-term planning will go a long way to prevent future price shocks.

Thank you for your consideration and I look forward to working together to bring relief to the

**Use the Fuel
Recommended for Your
Vehicle:**

Unless your car requires premium, high-octane fuels, consider purchasing the lowest grade of gasoline. According to AAA, premium gas accounts for about 20 percent of total gasoline sales in this country, despite the fact fewer than 10 percent of cars on the road were designed to burn the higher-octane fuel. Also, please note that using a higher-grade of gasoline in your car does not help increase its fuel economy or performance.

nation as it works to recover.

Sincerely,

Allyson Y. Schwartz
Member of Congress

CC: The Honorable Alberto Gonzalez, Attorney General

The Honorable Samuel W. Bodman, Secretary of Energy

The Honorable Deborah Majoras, Federal Trade Commission

The Honorable Joseph T. Kelliher, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Chairman

The Honorable Condoleeza Rice, Secretary of State

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